Senior English B

Ms. Benoit

Fall 2012

Senior Leadership Research Project

**An Overview🡪**

One of the requirements for Senior English B will be the completion of a research project. This project must show evidence of your leadership skills in taking social action on an issue.

In order to fully prepare for the completion of this unit, you will need to start thinking of ways to meet the minimum requirements.

According to the High School Content Expectations for English 12, below are the ideas, themes and guiding questions from the Michigan Department of Education.

**Themes**

• Citizens show responsibility by taking social action.

• Leadership takes many forms.

• There is a time to be a leader and a time to be a follower.

• Taking a stand takes courage.

• Leadership begins with knowing what you stand for and believe in.

• One person or group can make a difference.

• Citizens of America have responsibilities to be part of the world community.

• Getting to know people from other countries, religions, and races is a first step in breaking down barriers that divide.

• Knowledge is of the past, wisdom is of the future.

**Upon completion, your project must address or answer at least one of the following essential questions:**

**•** What responsibilities do I have to society?

• How can I effectively articulate my opinions and perspectives?

• What leadership qualities have I developed?

• What qualities define a good world citizen?

• How can I create the world I want to live in?

• How can I use my talents to create new opportunities for myself and others?

• How can I make an important contribution to the world?

**The Assignment** 🡪

Each student will…

* choose a socially relevant issue that is of concern. The issue selected must be a world problem or contemporary issue.
* conduct research based on the world problem or issue, which addresses the following:
  + clearly identify a broader issue/problem
  + examine why this specifically is a problem
  + develop specific ideas for solving the problem
  + devise an action plan for implementing what you think is the best plausible solution
  + explain how individuals can get involved in the solution (leadership component above)
* create a 3-5 minute video/digital presentation with research findings (including a Works Cited page).

Hints:

1. The more focused the research topic, the easier it will be to complete the project.

🡪For example: Researching pollution is too broad. Instead investigate to find a problem-based focus within the category, such as water pollution; then get even more focused.

1. The more interesting you find the topic, the more likely you’ll be invested in the research.

🡪 For example, if the overpopulation or deer or our current budget deficit have zero interest to you, pick something else. The whole idea of letting you pick your topic, is so that you enjoy learning about it.

1. Don’t put this off until the last minute. We’ll be spending several weeks on this project and it will be a large portion of your grade. Keep up with deadlines and get help when you need it!

**The Research Process🡪**

Conduct Preliminary Research

This step is critical as this is where you want to discover whether there is sufficient information and data available on your topic to warrant the research. If you don't have an idea for your paper, consider the following suggestions:

1. Think about what is interesting to you and see if you can connect that interest to the requirements.

2. Use the online reference databases in which the school has subscriptions. See your librarian for help.

3. Talk to your parents, teachers, and friends about possible topics.

Possible Research Topics

**The Big 12 Categories (a good place to start your brainstorming):**

* **Overpopulation**—when numbers threaten values or when an area cannot supply the necessities to sustain life
* **Education**—lack of education or poor quality education. Not having the knowledge to make wise decisions
* **Contamination of or poor use of resources**—depletion, misuse, endangered species, energy consumption, toxicity
* **Imperialism**—control of one nation by another, colonization, missionary, strategic, economic
* **Crime**—violation of the law for personal reasons, felony, homicide, arson, assault, drug use, prostitution
* **War**—terrorism, violation of law for political reasons, militia movements, armed conflict between groups/nations
* **Nutrition**—damage to humans due to inadequate diet, undernourishment, malnourished, famine
* **Human rights**—when basic human freedoms are violated by governments or society, lack of due process, racism
* **Disease**—impairment of normal psychological or physiological functions. Cancer, AIDS, substances
* **Poverty**—failure of an economic system to provide for the needs of certain groups, minimum wage, unemployment
* **Breakdown of morality**—cheating, political corruption, devaluation of human life
* **Economic woes**—inflation, recession, budget deficit, trade deficit, trade policies

**Other Ideas**

Social/Human Issues

Illegal immigrants

Genetic experimentation

Teen suicide

Declining graduation rate

Gun control

Media promoting violence

Societal Issues

Crime Rate

Terrorism

Illegal downloading

Capital punishment

School Shootings/ Violence

Child abuse

Sex Trafficking

Health Issues

Sale of human organs

Physician assisted suicide

Stem Cells

Autism

Environmental

The importance of eating local foods in season (Community Sustainability)

Renewable energy sources

-Wind power

-Solar polar

Global warming

Genetically modified organisms

Animal Testing

Steroids

The more information you gather, the better you will understand and be able to present on your topic. Based on your own thoughts, facts and ideas gathered from a variety of sources, the research project is a synthesis of these facts and ideas, with complete documentation of where those facts and ideas came from. In this sense, the research project is a new work that is created by consulting several sources to answer a research question.

\*Specific requirements will be provided for the research expectations and project at a later date.\*